

**In the Claims**

**Claims pending**

- At time of the Action: Claims 1-2, 4-12, 14-17 and 19-28.
- After this Response: Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14-17, and 19-28.

**Amended claims:** Claims 1, 12, 17, 19, 20, and 23.

**New claims:** None.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of generating common intermediate language code comprising:

writing first object oriented language source code that comprises a definition of a generic class usable in a framework, the first object oriented language source code being associated with a framework developed for use with a predetermined object oriented programming language that compiles source code into non-language-neutral bytecodes;

generating an instance of the generic class;

compiling the instance of the generic class into common intermediate language code executable by a runtime engine; and

receiving a second, different object oriented language source code referencing the generic class defined by the first object oriented language source code.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising storing the source code in a class library of the framework.

3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:  
parsing the second source code into a parse tree representing the second source code.
5. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising parsing the portion of the object oriented language source code into a parse tree representing the source code.
6. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein writing first- object oriented language source code comprises defining at least one parameter associated with the generic class.
7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 6 wherein the at least one parameter is an unconstrained type.
8. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising declaring an instance of the generic class in second object oriented language source code.

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 8 wherein declaring an instance of the generic class comprises specifying a type from a plurality of allowable types associated with the generic class.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9 wherein the specified type is another generic class.

11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the generic class comprises one of:

- a Queue class;
- a Dictionary class; and
- a Stack class.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of using a generic class comprising:

adapting existing object oriented language source code, the existing object oriented language source code being associated with a framework developed for use with a predetermined object oriented programming language that compiles source code into non-language-neutral bytecodes, to include a declaration of a first generic class provided by a software package having a class definition of the first

generic class wherein the adapting comprises editing the existing object oriented language source code with a second source in a second source framework; and

compiling the adapted existing object oriented language source code with the class definition to generate common intermediate language code.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 12 wherein the class definition defines at least one parameter of the generic class.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 12 wherein compiling comprises:

validating a specified type of the generic class according to the class definition.

16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 12 wherein the adapting comprises nesting a second generic class in the declaration of the first generic class.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for authoring source code comprising:

a class library having a generic class definition;

a means for receiving a declaration of an instance of the generic class in first object oriented language source code, the first object oriented language source code being associated with a framework developed for use with a predetermined object oriented programming language that compiles source code into non-language-neutral bytecodes;

wherein the means for receiving comprises a computer-readable medium having stored thereon a second source application; and

a means for generating metadata descriptive of the generic class.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 17 further comprising a common intermediate language importer operable to associate the generic class declaration in the first object oriented language source code to the generic class definition.

20. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 17 further comprising a semantic analyzer operable to validate the generic class declaration in the first object oriented language source code according to the generic class definition.

21. (Previously Presented) A system as recited in claim 17 further comprising a code generator operable to generate common intermediate language code representative of the generic class.

22. (Original) A system as recited in claim 21 further comprising a runtime engine operable to translate the common intermediate language into machine-specific binary executable by a computer associated with the runtime engine.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon microprocessor-executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

receiving input representing a generic class definition in a first object oriented language, the first object oriented language being associated with a framework developed for use with a predetermined object oriented programming language that compiles source code into non-language-neutral bytecodes;

receiving source code that references the generic class;

compiling the source code with an instance of the generic class into common intermediate language code executable by a runtime engine; and

receiving a second, different object oriented language source code referencing the generic class defined by the first object oriented language source code.

24. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 23 wherein the method further comprises storing the generic class definition in a framework class library.

25. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 23 wherein the source code comprises object oriented language source code.

26. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 23 wherein the method further comprises generating metadata describing the generic class.

27. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 23 wherein the generic class definition comprises a generic class name and two angular brackets around one or more parametric types.

28. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 23 wherein the method further comprises compiling the generic class definition into common intermediate language code.